



2015 Herd Creek Allotment

USFWS Monitoring Report

Annual Monitoring Report Form for Actions covered under the Service's Biological Opinion for Grazing on Allotments Managed by the Salmon-Challis National Forest.

Please submit annually by **March 1** to the Supervisor of the Service's Eastern Idaho Field Office:

4425 Burley Dr., Suite A, Chubbuck, Idaho 83202
Telephone (208)237-6975.

Please include name and contact information in case additional information is needed.

1. What was the name of that stream in this allotment surveyed for impacted redds?

None, livestock were not in any areas where Bull Trout spawn after August 15.

2. What was the date of the survey, and what were the water conditions?

NA

3. Which stream segment was surveyed and how many redds and impacted redds were found? (Please give GPS start and stop points for segments)?

NA

4. What was the date that livestock were removed from the pasture with surveyed stream segment?

Cattle drifted off the Taylor-McDonald Unit from August 20 to September 29, 2015. The last cattle left the Taylor-McDonald Unit on September 29, 2015. No cattle crossed Herd Creek into the Lake Basin Unit. The Lake Basin Unit was not used by cattle in 2015.

5. Did this number exceed the scale anticipated in section VII of the Biological Opinion?

No. Even though the 2015 scheduled grazing rotation was not followed by the permittees (see #6), the scale of anticipated impact described in section VII of the Biological Opinion was not exceeded because permittees kept their cattle away from Taylor Creek after August 15, 2015, per communication with them and as was verified by Forest Service inspections.

6. Were there any changes to the grazing management that differed from the proposed grazing management in the Forest's Biological Assessment? If yes, what were they?

Yes. The permittees did not follow the grazing rotation identified in their 2015 annual operating instructions. The permittees reported on September 9, 2015 that they had missed their move-by date to get cattle across Herd Creek into the Lake Basin Unit prior to August 15, 2015. Rather than trail cattle across Herd Creek after August 15, the permittees elected to keep their cattle in



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the Taylor-McDonald Unit, but in the northern portion of the unit away from Taylor Creek. Forest Service staff performed a field inspection on September 10, 2015, and an overview flight of the unit on September 15, 2015, and both trips showed no cattle in the Taylor Creek drainage. The designated monitoring area near Taylor Creek was monitored on September 10, 2015, with one of the permittees; this monitoring area met standard. Because of this change in the grazing rotation, the Lake Basin Unit was rested completely from cattle grazing for 2015 although it was scheduled for use. The permittees received a notice of non-compliance, dated January 28, 2016, for failing to follow their authorized grazing rotation.

7. **Were there any unexpected circumstances or events that resulted in impacts beyond those anticipated in the Forest's Biological Assessment or the Service's Biological Opinion? If yes, please describe.**

No.

Salmon-Challis NF Official: Brianna Goehring, Range Management Specialist
Bart Gamett, Fish Biologist

Date: February 16, 2016

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